



03500.014620.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Omar Flores Sanchez
Noriyoshi UEDA, et al.	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 3724
Application No.: 10/654,986	)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 5648
Filed: September 5, 2003	)	
	:	
For: SHEET PUNCHING DEVICE AND	)	February 28, 2005
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	:	
HAVING THE SAME	)	

**Mail Stop RCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of an Office Action, dated November 29, 2004, entering a final rejection in the above-identified application. In response, a Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently with this Preliminary Amendment to allow prosecution to proceed.

In response to the final Official Action dated November 29, 2004, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application, as follows.